

Message Text

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TAGS:MARR, JA

SUBJ: CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE REPORT ON ASIA FORCE
POSTURE

REF: TOKYO 9926

1. COPY OF BUDGET ISSUE PAPER "PLANNING US GENERAL PURPOSE
FORCES: FORCES RELATED TO ASIA" POUCHED TO WILLIAM BREER
JULY 6.

2. REPORT UNDER REFERENCE NOTES HISTORICAL RECENT INVOLVE-
MENT OF US IN ASIA. STATES THAT SINO-SOVIET SPLIT HAS
FUNDAMENTALLY ALTERED US CONTINGENCY PLANNING ASSUMPTIONS
BY REDUCING PROSPECT OF COMBINED ATTACK BY USSR/PRC. RE-
PORT STATES FURTHER THAT MOST DEMANDING CONTINGENCIES FOR
US FORCES IS WAR WITH USSR CENTERED IN WESTERN EUROPEAN/
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ATLANTIC THEATER. IT NOTES THAT, IN CONTRAST TO EUROPEAN
FORCE PLANNING, US ASIAN FORCE STRUCTURE HAS NOT INVOLVED
PRESENTATION OF DETAILED RATIONALE.

3. REPORT STATES THAT 25 PERCENT OF SOVIET GROUND FORCES
AND FRONTAL AVIATION IS DEPLOYED OPPOSITE PRC TOGETHER WITH
30 PERCENT OF SOVIET NAVAL STRENGTH IN PACIFIC FLEET.

SOVIET THREAT, HOWEVER, REPORT ESTIMATES, IS LIMITED BY THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

(A) SOVIET FORCES ARE DIRECTED AGAINST PRC AND MIGHT WELL REMAIN SO EVEN IN THE EVENT OF NATO/PACT WAR.

(B) SOVIET PACIFIC FLEET (EXCLUDING SSBN'S) IS LESS ACTIVE THAN US OR OTHER SOVIET FLEETS AND IS LAST FLEET TO RECEIVE NEW VESSELS.

(C) SOVIET PACIFIC FLEET'S TWO MAIN BASES INVOLVE PROBLEMS; VLADIVOSTOK BECAUSE SEA OF JAPAN VULNERABILITY TO CLOSURE AND PETROPAVLOVSK BECAUSE OF SUPPORT/RESUPPLY DIFFICULTIES.

4. REPORT GOES ON TO SAY US HAS FORCES DEPLOYED IN PACIFIC FOR CHIEFLY POLITICAL REASONS, MOSTLY RELATING TO OUR INTERESTS IN JAPAN.

5. REPORT ASKS FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN CONSIDERING PACIFIC FORCE STRUCTURE: (A) GIVEN DEMANDING NAVAL TASKS IN NATO/PACT CONFLICT, CAN US AFFORD TO DEPLOY ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF ITS NAVAL POWER IN PACIFIC VIS-A-VIS 30 PERCENT OF SOVIET NAVY IN A RELATIVELY INACTIVE FLEET? (B) ARE THERE PLAUSIBLE MISSIONS THAT JUSTIFY SCALE OF USMC IN OKINAWA? (C) DOES MAINTENANCE OF STABILITY IN KOREA REQUIRE PRESENCE US DIVISION? (D) DO WE NEED PRESENT LARGE FORCE LEVELS IN PHILIPPINES? (E) IF REDUCTION IS MADE IN FORCES, SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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ELEMENTS BE WITHDRAWN FROM FORCE STRUCTURE OR REDEPLOYED?

6. REPORT THEN OUTLINES CURRENT STATE OF DEPLOYMENT, COMPARING THESE TO PAST LEVELS AND NOTING ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO WITHDRAW KOREAN GROUND FORCES.

7. REGARDING JAPAN, REPORT NOTES "SUBSTANTIAL" LEVELS OF FORCES IN JAPAN REFLECTING IMPORTANCE US ATTACHES TO JAPAN AND MAJOR CONTRIBUTION WE MAKE TO JAPANESE SECURITY. REPORT NOTES CONSTRAINTS ON JAPANESE MILITARY ROLE/SPENDING AND LACK OF POLITICAL CONTROVERSY RE MST. REPORT GOES ON

TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF US FORCES IN SECURING JAPANESE SL 'S AND STABILITY IN KOREA. REPORT STATES THAT "BURDEN SHARING" AND MILITARY COOPERATION WILL REMAIN IMPORTANT AGENDA ITEMS FOR US-JAPAN ALLIANCE.

8. RE ROK. REPORT DETAILS MILITARY BALANCE AND SITUATION IN PENINSULA; GROWING CAPABILITY OF ROK FORCES AND MILITARY REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPPORT OF ROK. REPORT NOTES THAT DIMINISHED US PRESENCE LIKELY LEAD TO REDUCED US INFLUENCE AND THAT THIS MAY CONFLICT WITH OUR GOAL OF STABILITY ON

PENINSULA.

9. REPORT CONCLUDES THAT THERE IS NO DIRECT AND UNAMBIGUOUS ANSWER TO QUESTION OF WHAT US ASIAN POLICY COSTS ARE IN TERMS OF MILITARY FORCES AND THAT THERE IS, THIRFFORE- NO SPECIFIC BASELINE FORCE FOR ASIA. REPORT THEN OUTLINES NUMBER OF ALTERNATIVE COURSES FOR US INVOLVING EITHER REDUCTION OR REALIGNMENT OF US ASIAN FORCES.

10. COMMENT. CBO HAS PUBLISHED REPORTS FOR PAST TWO YEARS. PURPOSE OF REPORTS ARE TO STIMULATE AND INFORM THOSE CONCERNED WITH SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION. CURRENT REPORT IS THOUGHTFULLY PREPARED BUT HAS SOME DRAWBACKS, SUCH AS A SERIOUS LACK OF APPRECIATION FOR THE POLITICAL AND PSYCHO-CONFIDENTIAL

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LOGICAL RATIONALE FOR OUR FORCE PRESENCE. IT ALSO FAILS TO DISCUSS ADEQUATELY EFFECTS OF THE VARIOUS FORCE STRUCTURE ALTERNATIVES ON OUR ASIAN FRIENDS AND ALLIES. REPORT IS, OF COURSE, AN EFFORT OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH WHICH HAS HAD NO DIRECT INPUT FROM ADMINISTRATION. VANCE

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